



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

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CAT ATTACKS YOUNG ADULT AT THURMONT COMMUNITY PARK

On July 13, 2022, a large all-black cat jumped out of the bushes at the Thurmont Community Park near the softball field and attacked a young adult. The cat ran off after biting the victim. Although the cat was unable to be quarantined or tested for rabies, unprovoked attacks are one of the signs of a rabid animal, and the Frederick County Health Department wants the public to be aware of this situation.

Who to call if you have physical exposure to a cat at this park:

- Contact Frederick County Animal Control: 301-600-1544
- Notify Frederick County Health Department: 301-600-3342
- Consult your health care provider



What you can do to stay safe:

- Observe wildlife, including stray cats, from a distance
- Alert Animal Control if you see a cat that is acting strangely or appears sick
- Notify Animal Control immediately if you have physical exposure to a wild animal so that the animal can be captured and tested for rabies
- Seek medical attention for any scratches or bites from unknown animals

What you should know about rabies:

- Rabies is a viral disease that mainly infects mammals
- Rabies is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, through a bite or scratch
- Rabies symptoms in animals include unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, excessive salivation, limping, and/or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime
- Rabies is nearly always fatal in humans once symptoms develop
- Rabies can be prevented in humans with appropriate post-exposure treatment



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